

# To Invite, Nurture, and Send

Weaving a Tapestry of Great Potential

A Comprehensive Plan, 2009-2012  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
Church Conference, Nov. 15, 2009

# Our Mission, Vision, and Values

- **We will...** call others to the Kingdom, nurture them toward Christian maturity, and send them into the world...
- **We are...** a welcoming and inclusive community in Christ, equipping and empowering persons to serve as Christ's hands, feet, and heart, in the world...
- **We value...** prayer, worship, outreach, servant leadership, empowerment, spiritual gifts, the healing community, relevance, and devotion to Christ.

# To Invite, Nurture, and Send: Three Important Questions



- How has the Spirit been at work, **inviting** people to St. Paul's?
- In what ways are we **nurturing** people toward faithful discipleship?
- To what extent and in what ways are we **sending** people into the world through St. Paul's and our various networks?

How has the Holy Spirit been at work *inviting* people to St. Paul's?



# People are *invited* into St. Paul's in ways like this:

- *New* Radio Commercials on ESPN for PSU Home Football Games
- The Collegian and Centre Daily Times Ads
- *New* Advent Media Grant
- Igniting Ministry Radio and Television
- *New* Welcome Center
- Countless Personal Invitations
- Public Events like "The Requiem"
- *Upgraded* St. Paul's Web Page...
- Centre County Visitors Bureau



# And like this!



- **New** Welcoming Congregation Award!!!
- Regular e-mail follow up, cards, and letters to visitors
- Ushers, Greeters, and Welcome Table Hosts Alert to Hospitality
- Coffee Hour Between Services
- Church School Classes and Groups
- Our Active Small Groups
- **New** Pastor's Elective Programs
- The Abba Java Coffee House



# And we are continuing to work on these things:

- Expanding the use of the new Pictorial Directory and updating our database
- Preparing and Dedicating the new "Welcome Center"
- Improving our Web Page and access
- Expanding our Media Ads
- Promoting Hospitality and Openness
- Follow-up work with visitors and constituents, and--
- Developing an "orientation" program for seekers



At St. Paul's We  
Take Nurture  
Seriously!

In what ways are  
we **nurturing**  
our members  
and constituents  
toward Christian  
maturity?

# We Create Opportunities for Nurture and Growth Like This:

- Promoting Local, Regional, National, and International Mission Trips and Giving
- Inviting Visiting Scholars and Mission Interpreters
- Offering Inspiring Worship, Music, and the Arts
- Supporting Camping and Retreat Ministries for Children, Youth, and Adults
- Preparing Stephen Ministers and Training
- Expanding Parish Nursing and Care Giving Ministries
- Implementing a Profound Youth Program and Summer of Service Activity for Outreach

# And Like This!

- Sustaining 46 Small Groups at work here!
- Interventions through "The Good Samaritan Fund" for persons in need
- Supporting "Kappa Phi" Ministries
- "Goin' Fishin'" Fund Raising [2008-2009]
- Enlisting 63 New Members in 2009
- Encouraging the Wesley Student Fellowship and their outreach to the Campus and the World!
- Wesley Exceptional Praise Team!
- Caring for others through Mission Central

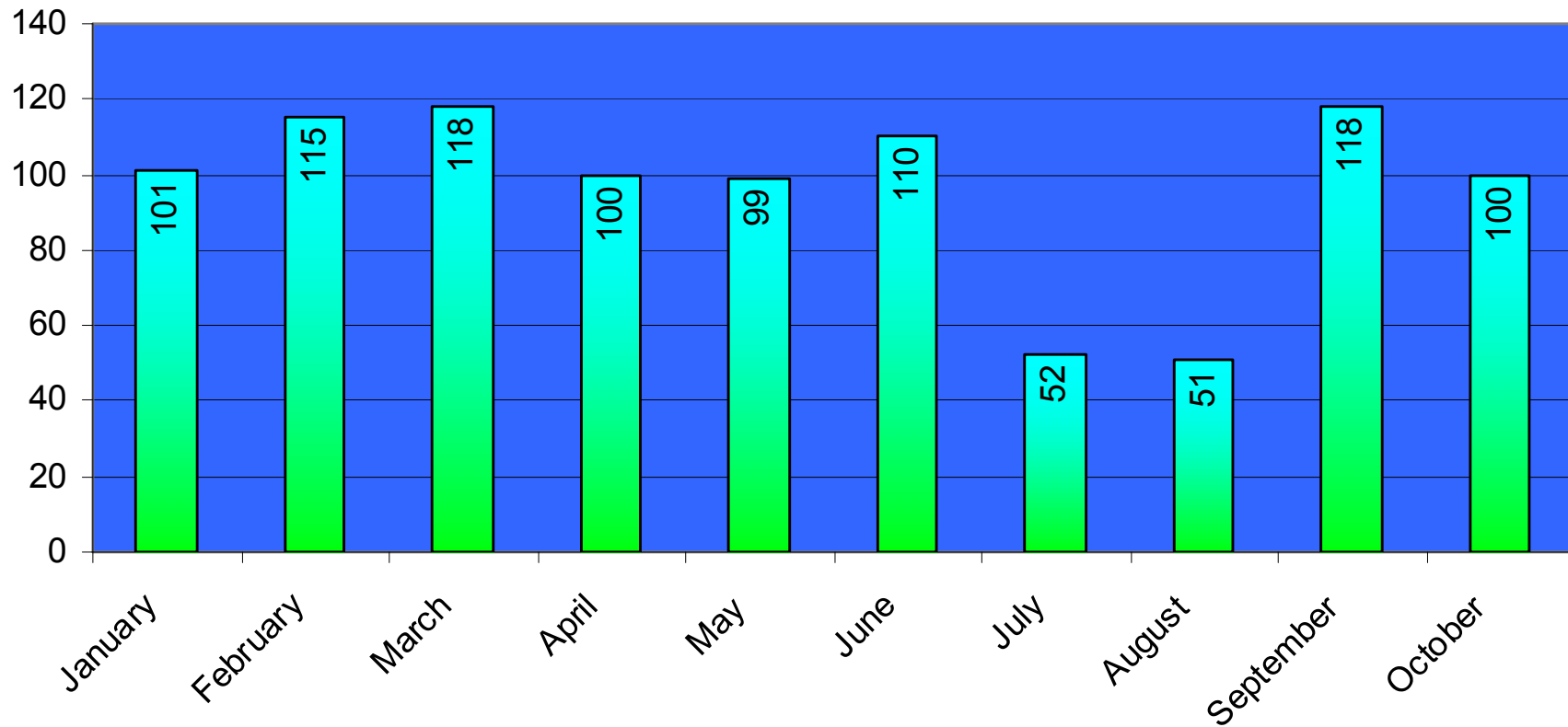
# The Spirit continues to work like this:

- Staff and Laity in Leadership Development and Training
- Distribution of Bequest Funding for Outreach, Programs, and the Endowment
- Church School and Bible School
- God and Country Awards Academy
- Elective Bible Studies and Groups
- Christian Young Professionals
- Prayer and Healing Academy

# Children's Ministry

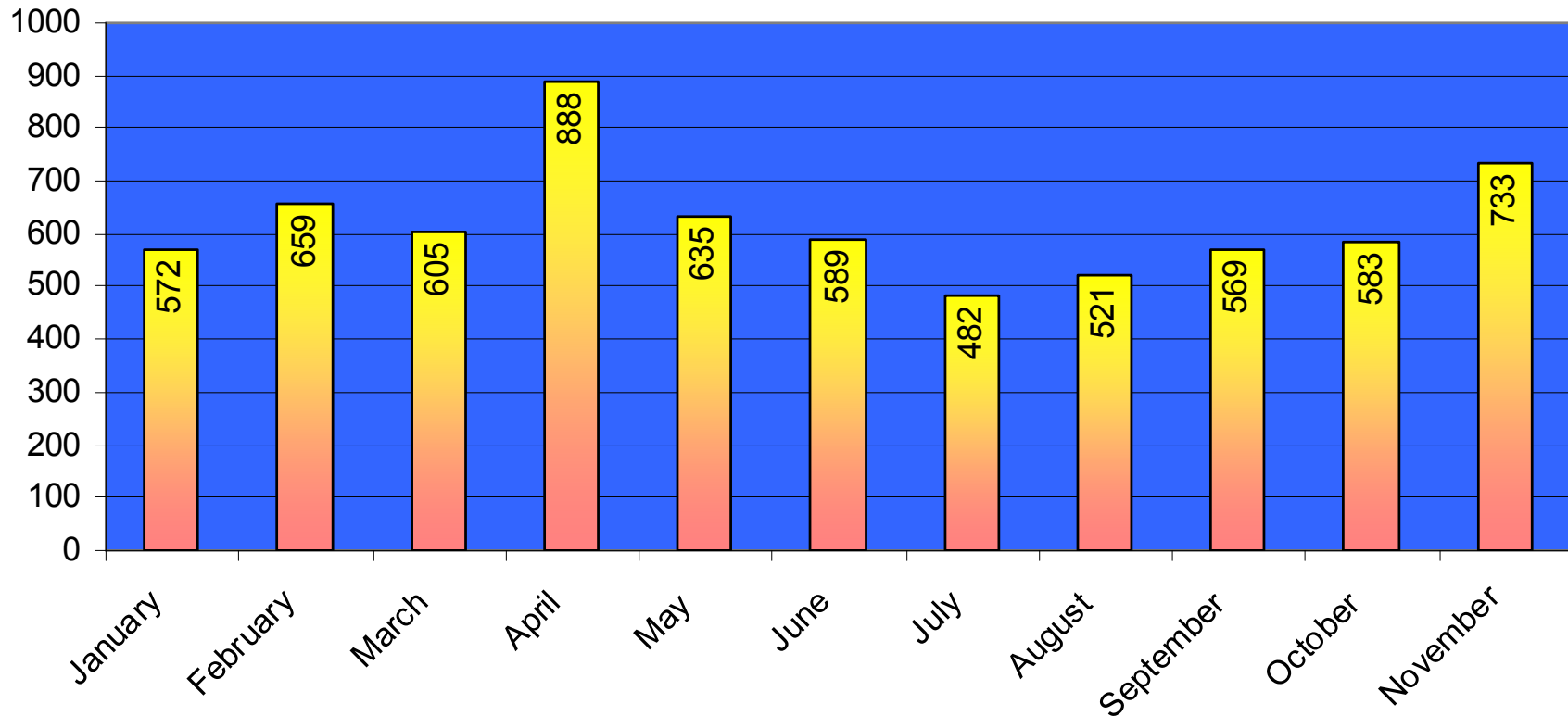
## Average Monthly Children's Sunday School Attendance for 2009

(6th Grade Class didn't meet in July or August and counted with Youth Program beginning September 1, 2009)



# Worship Attendance

**Average Attendance 2009**  
**614 = Average for 2009 (through November 8th)**

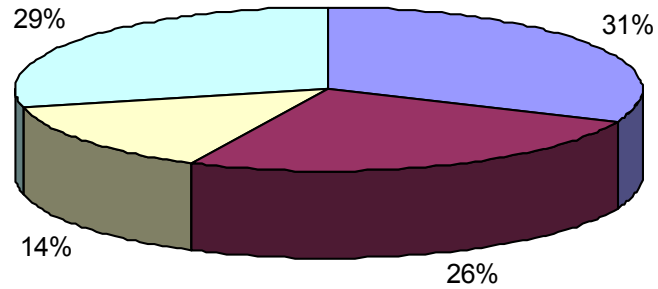


# Membership

Total Membership as of  
11/16/2008 = 1,482

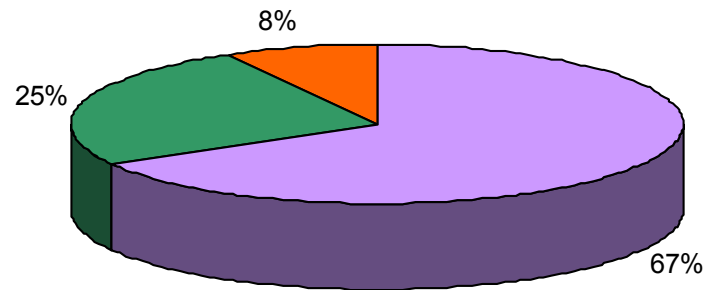
Total Membership as of  
11/15/2009 = 1,475

## Membership Decrease Since 11/16/2008 = 70



- Withdrew Membership
- Transfer to a UMC
- Transfer to another denomination
- Death

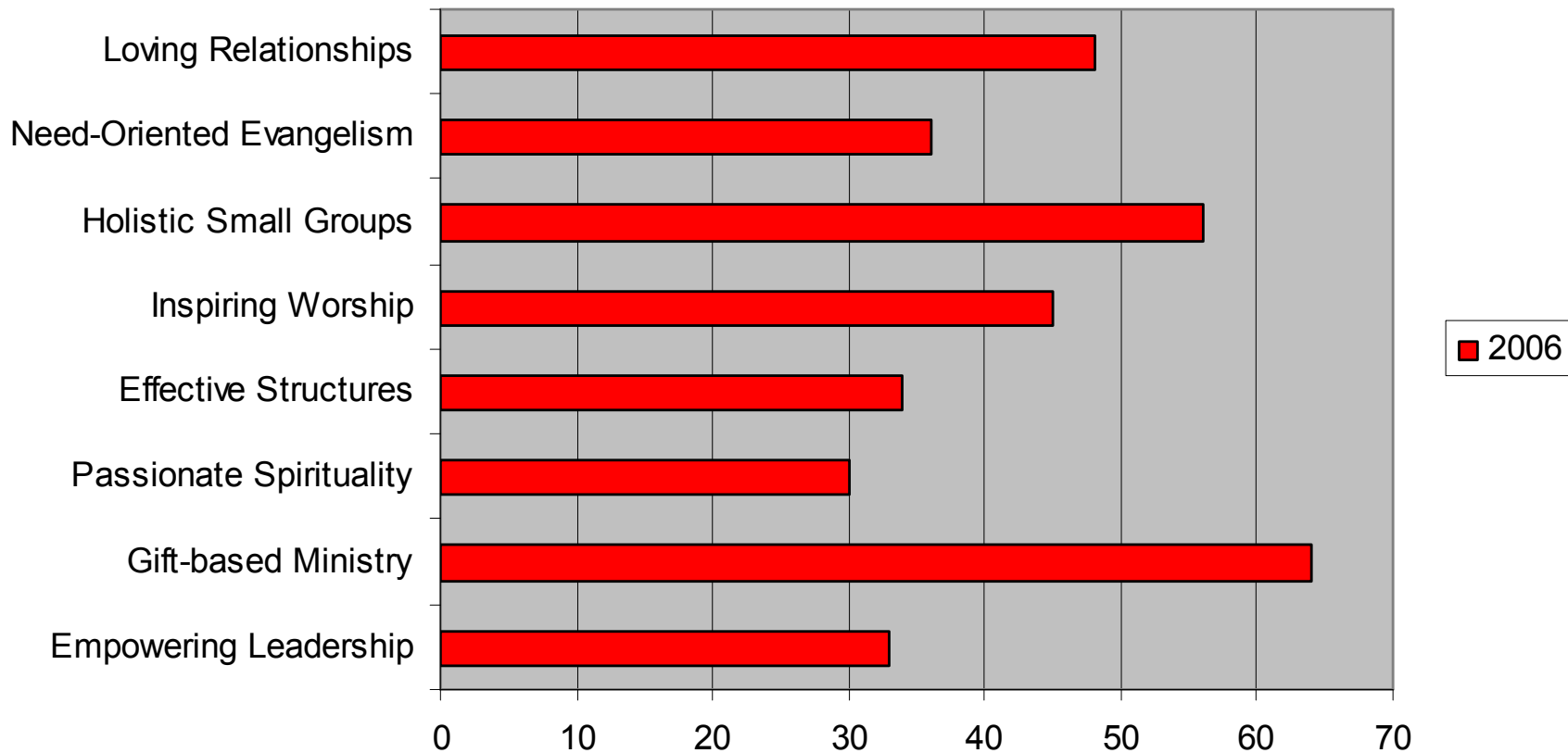
## Membership Increase Since 11/16/2008 = 63



- New Members
- Confirmands
- Restored to Membership

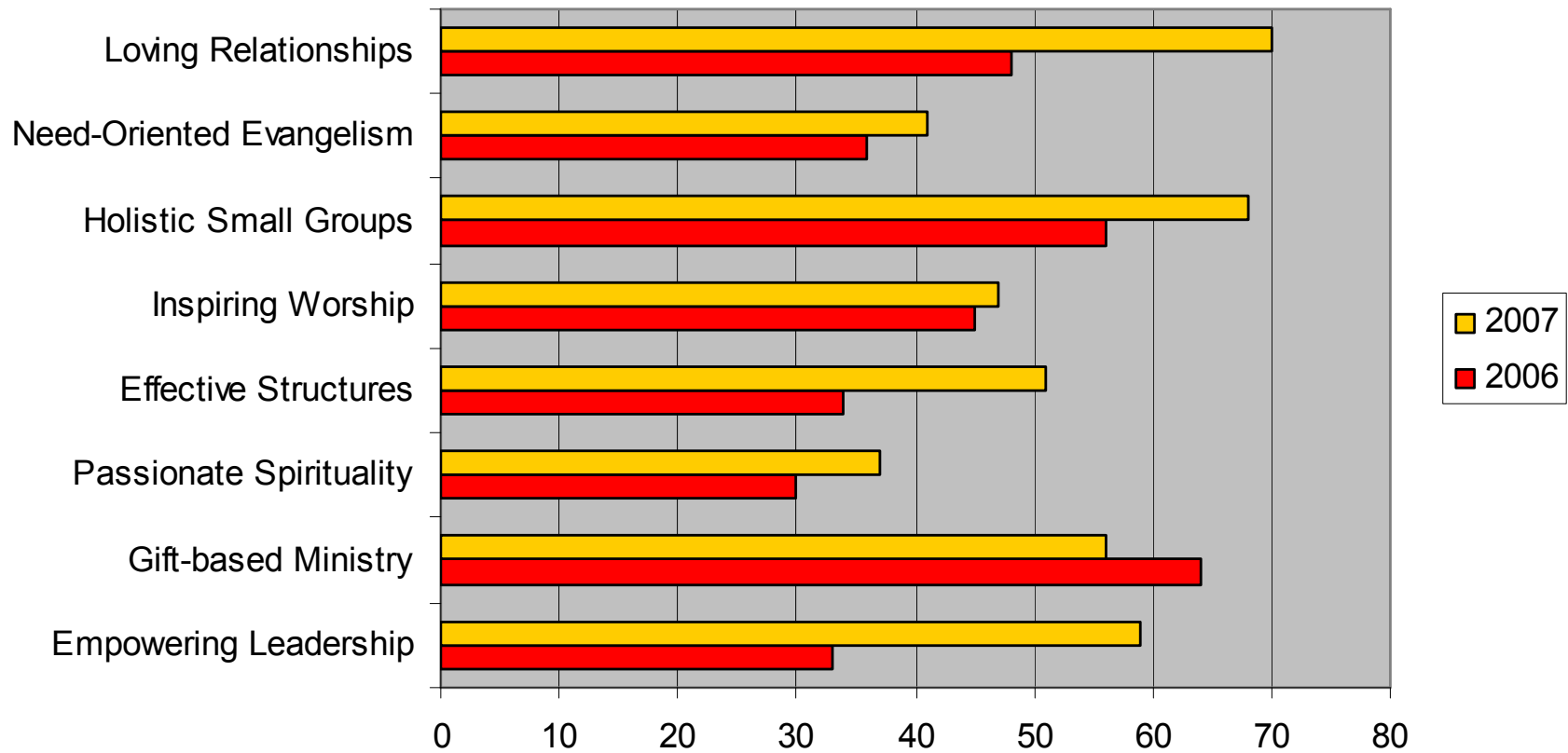
# Natural Church Development

**Natural Church Development Results 2006**  
(Average Score: 43)



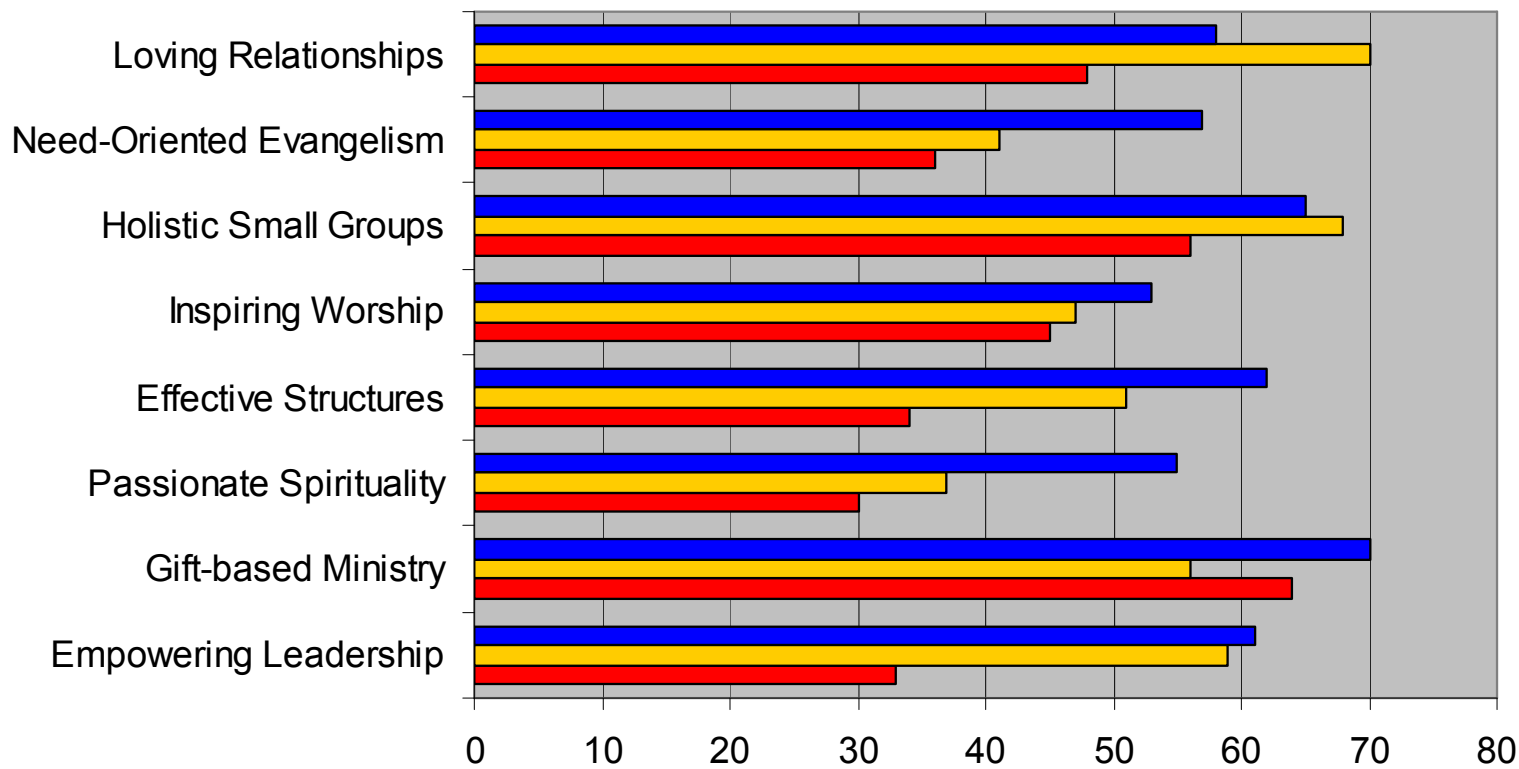
# Natural Church Development

**Natural Church Development Results 2006/2007 Comparison  
(Average Score 2007: 54)**



# Natural Church Development

**Natural Church Development Results 2006/2007/2009  
Comparison  
(Average Score 2009: 60)**



# Here are some things going on **right now** at St. Paul's:

- The Worship Forum
- Demographic Studies
- "The Vine and the Branches" Campaign
- Writing Wedding Guidelines
- Campus Ministry Panel
- Protocols and Practices Reviews
- 2010 Budget Preparations
- Confirmation Training

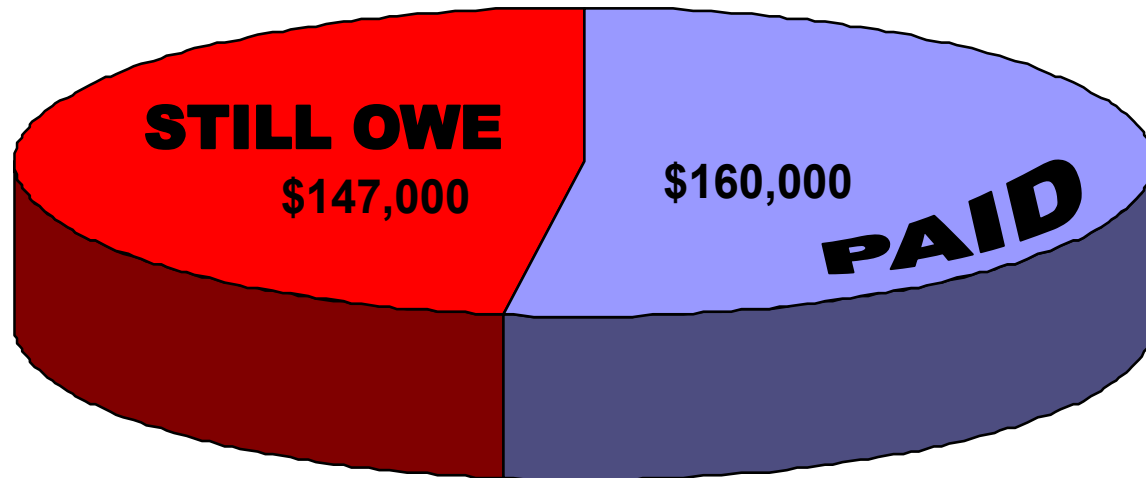
# And More!

- Staffing Plan
- Marketing and Public Relations
- Advent and Christmas Planning
- Debt Service for the Ed. Center
- UMW and UMM
- Christ-Care Groups
- Alpha Marriage
- Parish Nurse Program
- Abba Java Coffee House Ministries
- The Emergency Response Plan
- Coaching Conferences for Spiritual Gifts

# Faith Forward + 1

**STATUS - FAITH FORWARD + 1**  
**(Total Debt at Start of Faith Forward + 1 = \$307,000)**

■ Debt Paid Off Since Beginning of FF+1 ■ Debt on Education Center as of 10/30/09



# Sending Disciples into the World



In what ways and to what extent are we **sending** people into the world through St. Paul's and our various networks?

We Prepare People to be **Sent** like this:

- Disciple Bible Study
- Alpha and Alpha Marriage
- Mission Education Programs
- Mission Moments and Witnesses
- United Methodist Women
- Church School, Elective Classes, and Bible Studies focused on outreach
- Advocacy, Reflection/Action

# We Care for the World and **Send** Disciples Like This:

- Centre Volunteers in Medicine
- Interfaith Mission
- Habitat for Humanity
- Civic Clubs and Similar Organization
- Centre County Community Foundation
- The Shoe Bank and Food Bank
- Counseling and Referral Services

# Yes, and More!

- Nicaragua and Mexico Mission Trips
- Park Forest Day Nursery
- Third World Pastor's Pension Program
- The Wesley Foundation Mission Projects here and in the Czech Republic
- Mountain Top Mission Project





# We support outreach like this:

- Cash grants and networking with local area agencies
- Our volunteers are commissioned to serve others
- Missionary support in Spain, Africa, and Alaska
- Resources and supplies are sent across the world
- Disaster response gifts, kits, supplies, and personnel
- Love a Child Fund
- We pay 100% of our UMC Benevolences

# Taking Our Next Steps

“Do all the good we can for all the people we can in every way that we can for as long as we can!”

--John Wesley